

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the above amendments to the specification and claims prior to calculation of the fees for filing the above-identified continuation application.

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/353,407 and is filed within two months of the Decision On Appeal in Appeal No. 2002-1292, decided December 31, 2003, in Serial No. 09/353,407. In the Decision, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences specifically stated that appealed Claims 20, 25, 26, 56, and 57 were free of rejection and also that Claim 51, not the subject of appeal, also appeared to be free of rejection (see, p. 13, of the Decision). Accordingly, Applicants have preliminarily amended the claims of this continuation application to conform to the Board's Decision as explained below.

Appealed Claim 20 of Serial No. 09/353,407 depended from Claim 17 (reciting selected anionic detergents), which depended from Claim 16 (reciting a range of detergent concentration), which in turn depended from Claim 1 (method) or Claim 2 (method). Applicants have incorporated the limitations of appealed Claim 16, Claim 17, and Claim 1 or Claim 2 of Serial No. 09/353,407 into amended Claims 1 and 2, respectively, of this continuation application.

Appealed Claim 25 of Serial No. 09/353,407 depended from Claim 1 or Claim 2. Applicants have recited the limitations of Claim 25 (concentration of an anionic detergent) and Claim 1 or Claim 2 of Serial No. 09/353,407 in new Claims 67 and 68, respectively.

Appealed Claim 26 of Serial No. 09/353,407 depended from Claim 1 or Claim 2. Applicants have recited the limitations of Claim 26 (concentration of an anionic detergent) and Claim 1 or Claim 2 of Serial No. 09/353,407 in new Claims 69 and 70, respectively.

Claim 51 of Serial No. 09/353,407 was not appealed, but was noted by the Board to be free of rejection. Claim 51 (selected anionic detergents) depended from Claim 48 (selected detergents), which depended from Claim 47 (concentration range of detergent), which in turn depended from Claim 33 (method) or 34 (method). Applicants have incorporated the limitations of Claim 47, Claim 48, and Claim 33 or Claim 34 of Serial No. 09/353,407 into amended Claims 33 and 34, respectively.

Claim 56 (a concentration of anionic detergent) of Serial No. 09/353,407 depended from Claim 33 or Claim 34. Applicants have recited the limitations of Claim 56 and Claim 33 or Claim 34 of Serial No. 09/353,407 in new Claims 71 and 72, respectively.

Claim 57 (a concentration of anionic detergent) of Serial No. 09/353,407 depended from Claim 33 or Claim 34. Applicants have recited the limitations of Claim 57 and Claim 33 or Claim 34 of Serial No. 09/353,407 in new Claims 73 and 74, respectively.

Applicants have also added new dependent Claim 75, covering the particular embodiment of the invention wherein the particles are magnetic particles. Support for new Claim 75 is found in the specification (see, e.g., p. 5, lines 24-26; p. 9, lines 2-14; p. 11, lines 1-3; and Examples 1-6, pp. 20-29, of the specification) and in original Claims 13 and 14.

The amendments herein add no new matter and merely serve to present subject matter determined by the Board of Patent Appeals to be free of rejection in independent form for consideration and allowance.

Allowance of Claims 1, 2, 33, 34, and 67-75, as presented herein and in accordance with the Decision On Appeal in Serial No. 09/353,407, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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